

# Ross Township Kalamazoo County, Michigan Five Year Recreation Plan

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*2020 - 2025*

Prepared by the Ross Township Park and Recreations Committee

Adopted by the Ross Township Board of Trustees on January 7, 2020

## **Ross Township Mission Statement**

The mission of the Ross Township Board of Trustees is to preserve and enhance the quality of life in Ross Township by:

- Providing a safe environment in which to live
- Maintaining the rural character and quietude of our community
- Protecting the natural resources of our community
- Responding to the needs of the Township with respect and concern
- Upholding and enforcing the Local, State, and Federal laws

## **Introduction**

The Ross Township Parks and Recreation Plan provides a vision for the future to guide citizens and public officials with parks and recreation decision making. The goal of this document is to provide a logical, consistent, and purposeful approach to managing parks, recreation facilities and services within the Township. The Plan sets forth the overall mission and goals of the Parks Committee, a description of physical and socio-economic conditions within the community, an inventory of existing facilities and resources, a report of recent updates and improvements, discussion of our future vision, and recommendations involving all facets of parks and recreation.

This Plan will allow the Township to evaluate the progress of recreation planning in the area. Recreation can be separated into four main categories: physical, social, cognitive, and environmentally-related recreation. Physical recreation focuses on sports and leisure activities that are fun for all ages. Social recreation addresses recreational activity that emphasizes social interaction opportunities. Cognitive recreation consists of cultural, educational, creative, and aesthetic activities. Lastly, environmentally-related recreation involves the natural environment as the setting or focus for activity. Each of these categories of recreation relates to each other and all four are an important part of human development. The Ross Township area is fortunate to be able to offer all four types of recreation to its residents and visitors, and has the capacity to connect all of its recreational assets to the community and surrounding communities.

## **Administrative Structure**

Ross Township is fairly typical in its governmental administrative configuration. The Township Board of Trustees consists of seven elected officials: Township Supervisor, Township Treasurer, Township Clerk, and four Township Trustees.

The Ross Township Planning Commission consists of seven members appointed by the Township Supervisor and approved by the Township Board. The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet monthly. The Planning Commission is authorized to make recommendations to the Township Board concerning planning, zoning, and recreation-related issues. The Zoning Board of Appeals is composed of three members appointed by the Township Supervisor and approved by the Township Board. It is the

only governmental body in the Township that can issue variances for site development that does not conform to the Ross Township Zoning Ordinance, including all park and recreational developments.

A Parks Committee for Ross Township was formed in 2014, with a focus on facilitating the development of bike paths. In 2019, the Parks Committee received a new mandate and a dedicated budget to address certain problems related to the safe use of Ross Township Park and repair of park facilities, to improve the quality of Park recreational activities for visitors of all ages, and to restore accessibility. It is using volunteers and partnerships and actively pursuing grants and available funding options to achieve these goals.

#### **Ross Township Board of Trustees**

Robert B. Baker, Township Supervisor  
Cynthia Genung, Township Treasurer  
Norm Kellogg, Township Clerk  
Lynn Harmon, Trustee  
Diana Langshaw, Trustee  
David Senkewitz, Trustee  
Mike Sulka, Trustee

#### **Ross Township Parks Committee**

Donna Tellam, Chair  
Alex Harris  
Gail Hurn  
Peggy Sattler  
Diana Langshaw, Board Representative  
David Senkewitz, Board Representative

#### **Ross Township Planning Commission**

Jim Lauderdale, Chair  
Michael Bekes  
Mark Markillie  
Michael Moore  
Pamela Sager  
Sherri Snyder  
Mike Sulka, Board Representative  
Rebecca Harvey, P.C. Planner

#### **Ross Twp. Zoning Board of Appeals**

David Carpenter, Chair  
Jim DeKruyter  
Jim Lauderdale  
Jim Gilbert, Alternate  
Blake Hawk, Alternate

Rebecca Harvey, AICP, PCP, Township Planning Consultant  
Associated Governmental Services (AGS), Zoning Administrator.

## **Community Description**

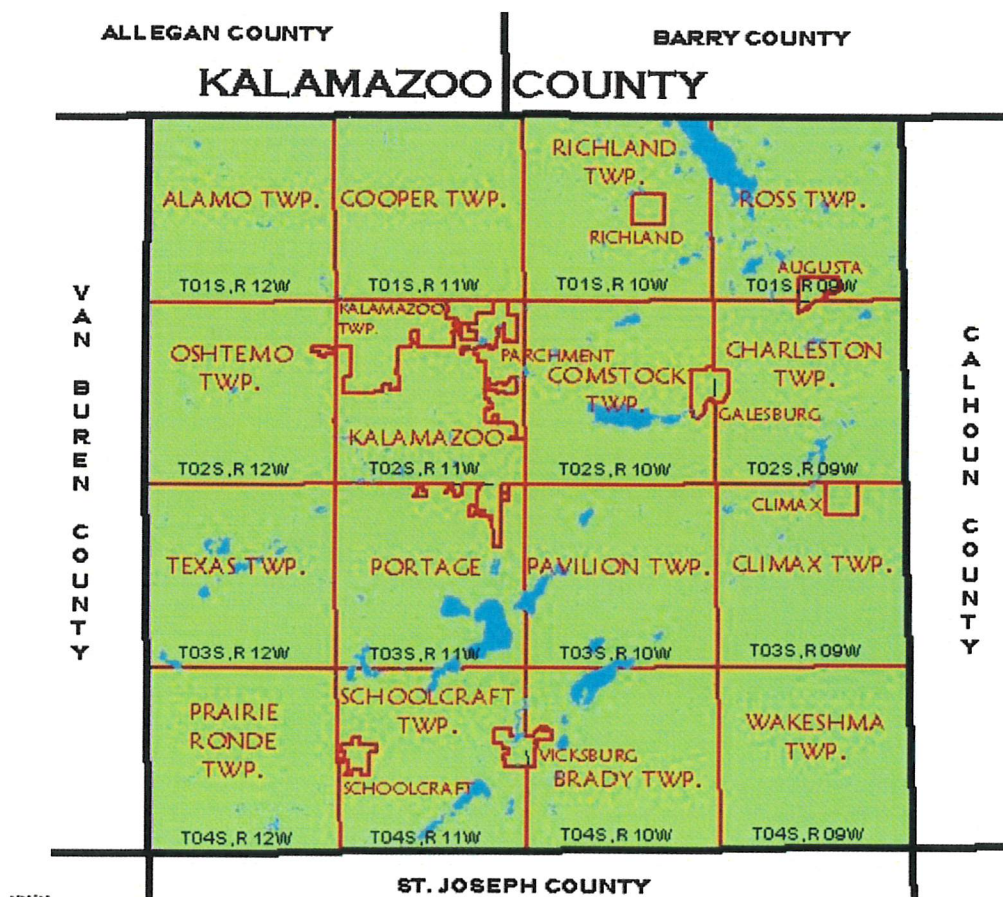
### **Physical Characteristics and Location**

Situated in the northeast corner of Kalamazoo County, Ross Township has a total area of 36.0 square miles (93.2 km<sup>2</sup>). Of the total area, land comprises 33.3 square miles (86.3 km<sup>2</sup>) or 92.68% and water accounts for the remaining 2.7 square miles (6.9 km<sup>2</sup>) or 7.42%. Approximately twelve square miles of the Township are either water bodies or tax-exempt entities.

Most of the water area in the township is within Gull Lake, the southeast half of which occupies the northwest part of the township. Ross Township is mostly rural, with only part of the village of Augusta within the southern edge of the township, but is within driving distance of several small villages, and the cities of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek.

Ross Township of Kalamazoo County, Michigan is located between two of southwest Michigan's largest metropolitan areas, Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. Not only is access to economic opportunity abundant, but plenty of recreational opportunities exist in the area. The Township is situated around the south end of Gull Lake, one of the region's premiere inland lakes, and is approximately fifty miles east of the sandy shores of Lake Michigan. (Map 1)

Map 1

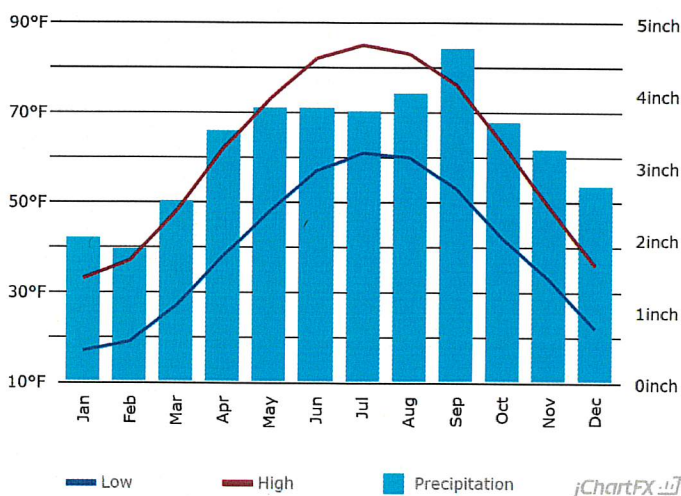


## Climate

Climate and weather conditions play an essential role in recreational planning. The climate of the area is fairly temperate with warm humid summers and cold winters due to the interaction of polar and tropical air masses along the mid latitudes. This type of climate is classified as humid continental. Located east of Lake Michigan, the region experiences 'lake effect' weather conditions. **Figure A** sets forth the average temperature and precipitation for Augusta, MI. Augusta experiences an average daily temperature that varies between 17 degrees in January and 85 degrees in July. The average annual precipitation is 39.54 inches, and snowfall averages 50 inches of accumulation. (**Table 1**).

Figure A and Table 1

**Augusta Climate Graph - Michigan Climate Chart**



**Climate Augusta - Michigan**

°C | °F

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Average high in °F:	33	37	48	62	73	82
Average low in °F:	17	19	27	38	48	57
Av. precipitation in inch:	2.01	1.85	2.52	3.5	3.82	3.82
Days with precipitation:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours of sunshine:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average snowfall in inch:	17	10	5	1	0	0

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average high in °F:	85	83	76	63	49	36
Average low in °F:	61	60	53	42	33	22
Av. precipitation in inch:	3.78	4.02	4.65	3.62	3.23	2.72
Days with precipitation:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hours of sunshine:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Average snowfall in inch:	0	0	0	0	3	14

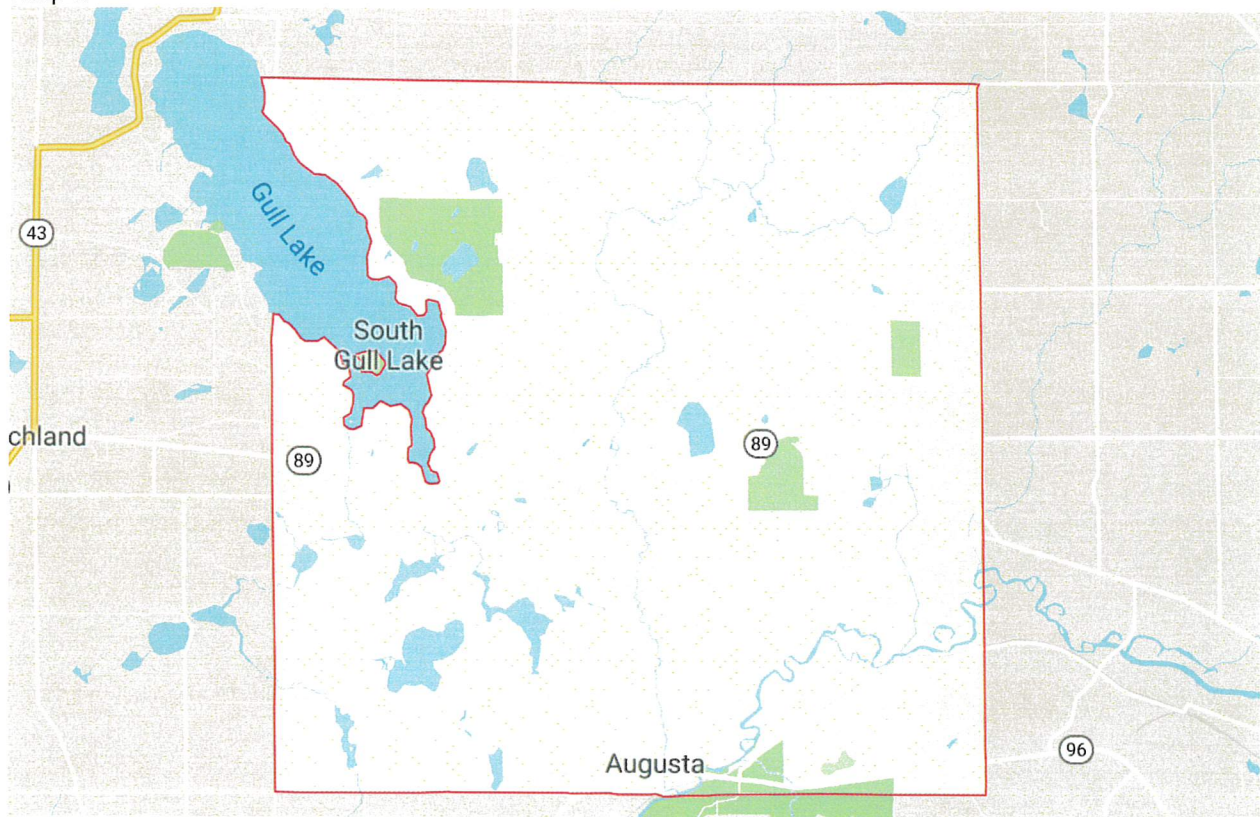
(Source: usclimatedata.com)

*Transportation:*

While many of the transportation routes in the township are rural, there are some main arterial links. M-89 runs east to west, virtually dividing the Township in half. This highway connects much of the Township's population to the south end of Gull Lake and the Richland area where the majority of commercial activity occurs. M-96, another main arterial highway, runs east to west through Augusta. Both of these highway routes connect Battle Creek (to the east) and Kalamazoo (to the west) to Ross Township. Because of the community's rural transportation pattern, secondary roads (primarily 40th Street and 42nd Street) act as the Township's main north and south routes. **(Map 2)**

For walkers and bicyclists, Kalamazoo River Valley Trail runs nearby, and the North Country National Trail runs between Ross Township's northern and southern borders.

Map 2



(Source: Google.com)

## Topography

Like much of Kalamazoo County, Ross Township is known for gently rolling hills and traversable terrain formed by past glacial activity. Glacial moraines and kettle lakes dot the landscape. Most of the Township is between 825-900 feet above sea level, some of the highest levels in the County. As would

be expected, the lowest levels are found along Augusta Creek as it flows south to the lowlands of the Kalamazoo River. **(Map 3)**

### **Gull Lake Dam Project**

(From "No Holding Back" as published in Encore Magazine – Author: Chris Killian)

"You can hear the Gull Lake Dam well before you can see it, the water splashing down the spillway creating a kind of wet whisper in the woods. . . . tucked behind thick foliage off [DE] Avenue near Yorkville. And it's old — almost 140 years old — and nearly past its useful life. . . . [Consider the] important work it does maintaining consistent water levels on one of the state's most beautiful lakes.

Making sure that job gets done falls to a group of individuals who comprise the Gull Lake Dam Association, which has launched a campaign to fund a new dam's \$700,000 price tag.

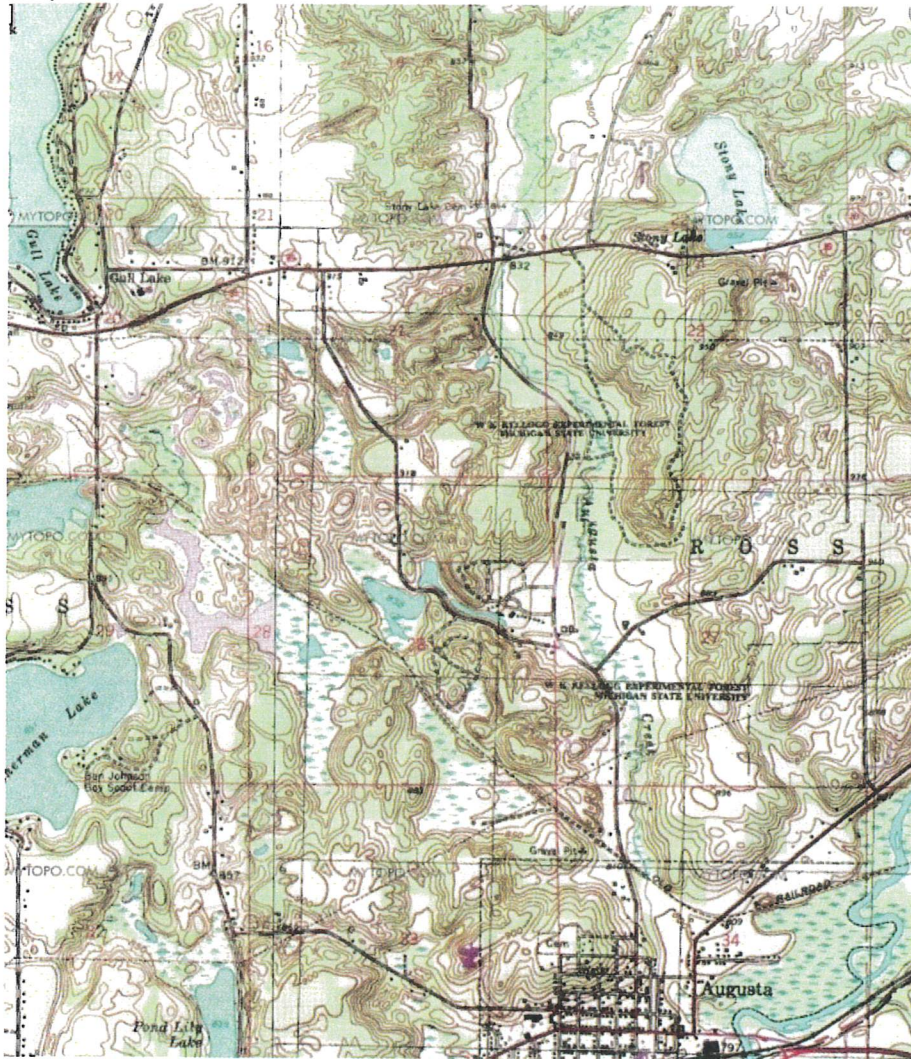
The dam was built in the early 1880s and powered a gristmill used by the Price Cereal Food Co. until the firm's closure, in 1906. The dam sat unmaintained for 15 years, until the former Gull Lake Association was organized in 1921 to acquire the dam and provide maintenance for the historic structure, which acts as an outlet control measure for the lake.

A Sept. 30 deadline has been established to raise the total. Construction would begin this fall and extend through the winter, with completion of the project expected by sometime next spring.

Heavy spring rains saw water levels rise significantly on several Kalamazoo County lakes, causing extensive property damage and forcing many families to evacuate their homes. Gull Lake, fed by springs and two streams and considered by many travel publications to be one of the most beautiful lakes in the state for its pristine, clear water, is one of only a handful of lakes in the region whose water level is dam-regulated.

The lake's water level is consistently monitored by a small cadre of volunteers, who regulate the level by raising or lowering a mechanical metal gate, controlling the flow of water that travels into Gull Creek, a tributary of the Kalamazoo River."

Map 3



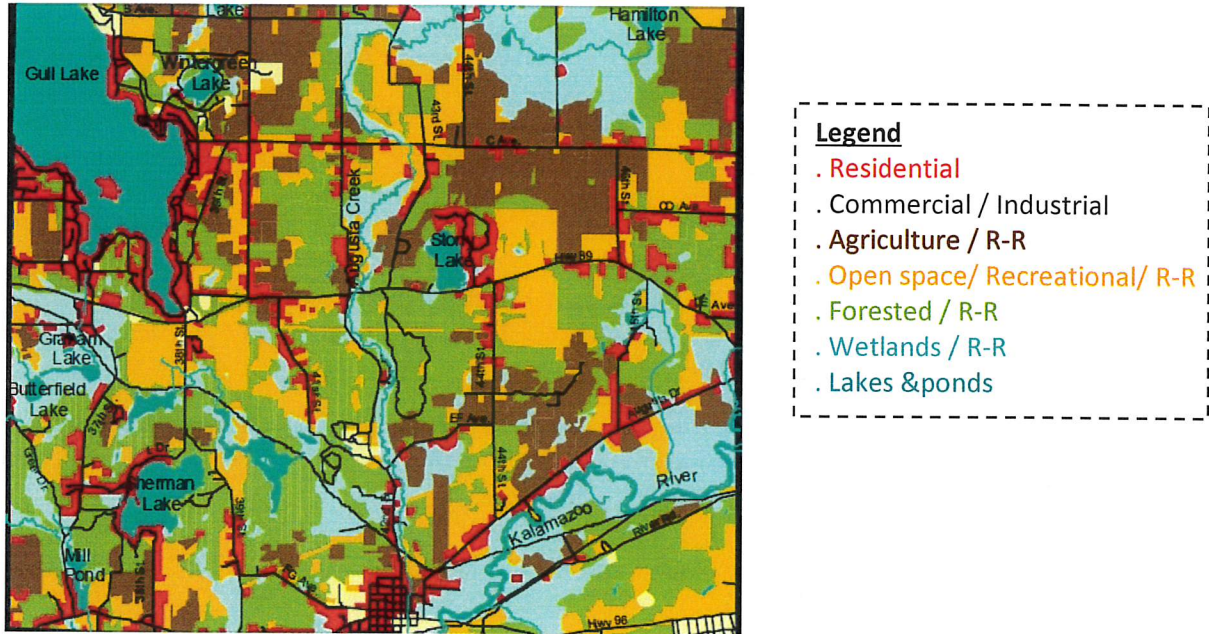
(Source: <http://www.digital-topo-maps.com>)

## Land Use

1. Residential: Consisting of five classifications (R1, R2, R3, R4, Rural Residential R-R) based on population density, much of the residential land use in the Township is concentrated near or along the east side and south end of Gull Lake and near Augusta. The remaining residential development is scattered throughout the Township along arterials, secondary roadways, water features, and other natural features.
2. Commercial: Commercial development in Ross Township is generally separated into three areas: Augusta, M-89 and the south end of Gull Lake. Augusta is the largest commercial area supplying small shops and locally owned companies. Commercial land use along the M-89 corridor and on the south end of Gull Lake is largely geared toward marine-related services, golf courses, and dining near the water.

3. Industrial: Industrial activity in the Township area is almost non-existent with the exception of the flour mill located within the Village of Augusta.
4. Agriculture: While much of the agricultural land is situated north of M-89, small and large agricultural establishments ranging from 40 to 200 acres are scattered throughout the Township, supplying job opportunities for the community. Michigan State University, has large holdings of land in the Township, including Kellogg Farm, a research field station for dairy farming practices, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, and Kellogg Forest, ecological reclamation, etc.

Map 4

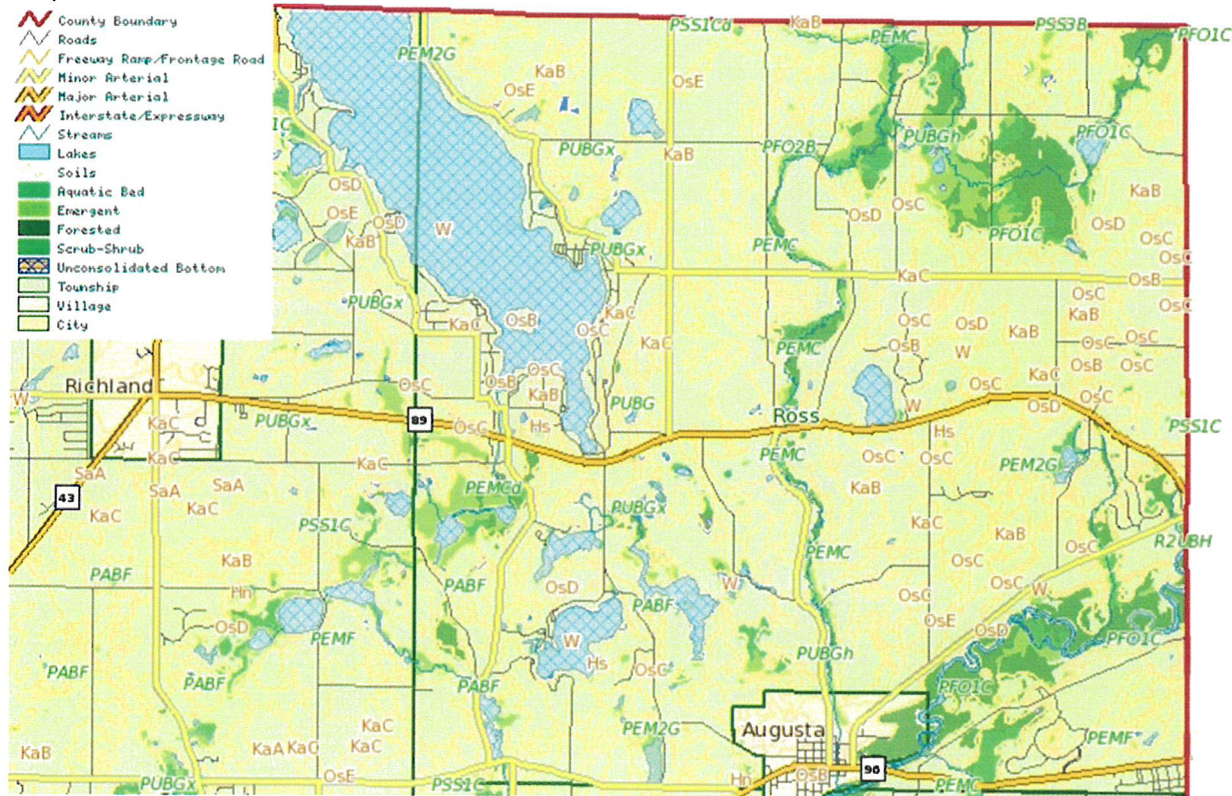


(Source: Four Twp. Water Resource Council)

## Environmental Attributes

Water, soil, vegetation and wildlife are the Township's greatest assets and most precious resources. These attributes are an integral part of Ross Township's recreational opportunities and outdoor activities. The ability to preserve and maintain balance between nature and the Township's rural ambience is an important characteristic of the community that needs to be upheld. **Map 5** illustrates common soil types and other environmental attributes of the Township.

Map 5



(Source: Kalamazoo County)

## Soil

Soil composition is very important to understanding the current environmental structure in the township. Ross Township consists of two general types of soils: Kalamazoo-Schoolcraft, found in the northwest portion, and Oshtemo-Coloma-Kalamazoo, found in the remaining portions of the Township. Kalamazoo-Schoolcraft soil is nearly level to rolling, well drained soils that have loamy, or loamy and sandy, subsoil which was formed in glacial outwash. Oshtemo-Coloma-Kalamazoo soil is undulating to steep, well drained, or somewhat excessively drained soils that have sandy subsoil or loamy and sandy subsoil which was formed in glacial outwash and sandy moraine deposits. These types of soils allow for easy recreational development of camp areas, picnic areas, paths and trails, playgrounds, and golf fairways. Different variations of each soil type exist throughout the Township and should be taken into account when developing specific tracts of land.

## Vegetation and Wildlife

Woodlands, wetlands, marshes, and bogs play host to a variety of vegetation and wildlife. An assortment of healthy deciduous and coniferous forest dominates the Township's landscape. Some of the more common species of trees include Northern Pin Oak, Jack Pine, Black Oak, White Oak, Red Pine,

Eastern White Pine, American Basswood, Northern Red Oak, White Ash, Black Walnut, Yellow Poplar and Sugar Maple. The undergrowth of these woodland areas allows white tail deer, raccoons, opossums, and other small mammals to thrive while the canopy is occupied by an assortment of bird species.

The wetland ecosystem, including marshes and bogs, offers some of the most unique vegetation and wildlife found in the Township. These environments are hosts to hundreds of waterfowl in their natural habitat, including trumpeter swans, Canadian geese and a variety of duck species which rely on a stable, maintained and well-preserved environment.

## Water Resources

The water resources are some of the most unique environmental attributes in the area. These resources provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Gull Lake is known as one of southwest Michigan's premier inland lakes and the largest lake in the region. At 2,050 acres, the lake serves a diverse population of fish and wildlife. Boat launches and parks allow for easy public access to the lake. Other smaller inland lakes including Sherman Lake, Cranes Pond (both south of Gull Lake) and Stony Lake (east of Gull Lake) provide additional recreational opportunities and public access (only Sherman Lake). Sherman Lake is home to the local YMCA and offers great bass fishing to the public. These water features are part of the Kalamazoo and Augusta Creek watershed.

The Kalamazoo River is the main tributary flowing through the southeast portion of the Township. Augusta Creek, a coldwater stream providing habitat for brown trout, is the secondary tributary flowing south dividing the Township. Areas rich in species and diverse habitats (wetlands, marshes, oxbow lakes) surround the Kalamazoo River/Augusta Creek and their floodplains. An abundance of recreational opportunities are available including fishing, hunting, kayaking, and hiking.

## Environmental Issues

Environmental issues, such as water and soil pollution, are of considerable concern to the Township. Currently, there is apparent arsenic contamination on the old orchard grounds of Hillcrest Orchard. Other risks include the potential effects from the July 2010 oil contamination of the Kalamazoo River, and potential PFAS groundwater contamination originating in Richland, MI and for which studies are currently ongoing.

Another risk is the possibility of abandoning the goals previously discussed in the Ross Township Mission Statement in times of residential, farming or industrial expansion. It is important that any changes that occur within the community are consistent with the goals and visions set forth in the Township's Master Plan and Recreation Plan and are in the Township's best interest.

## Socio-Economic Characteristics

The following data is provided to reveal a demographic profile of the area that can be used to understand the basic elements of the Township's population and assist in meeting recreational needs

associated with the projected growth of the area. Sustaining a proactive stance in recreational planning will benefit Township officials and the community in the long-run.

This profile includes population counts and projections, gender and race/ethnicity data, age distribution, and the number of households and income dispersion.

## Population

The population in the Township has remained relatively stable. According to the 2010 Census, 4664 people are residing in Ross Township, representing a 7.6% decline in population since 2000. The average population density is estimated to be approximately 140 people per square mile. In 2009, there were 2112 households within the Township resulting in an average density of 63 households per square mile.

The Census Bureau's American Community Survey for 2017 estimates the Ross Township population to be 4,837. Of these, 918 are age 19 or less; 1234 are age 20-44; 1625 are age 45-64; and 940 are over the age of 65, up from 790 in 2010 (Table 2).

Table 2

Subject	Ross township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan			
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Percent	Percent Margin of Error
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>				
Total population	4,837	+/-23	4,837	(X)
Male	2,393	+/-120	49.5%	+/-2.5
Female	2,444	+/-121	50.5%	+/-2.5
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	97.9	+/-9.7	(X)	(X)
Under 5 years	184	+/-65	3.8%	+/-1.3
5 to 9 years	142	+/-55	2.9%	+/-1.1
10 to 14 years	363	+/-85	7.5%	+/-1.8
15 to 19 years	349	+/-105	7.2%	+/-2.2
20 to 24 years	245	+/-78	5.1%	+/-1.6
25 to 34 years	567	+/-105	11.7%	+/-2.2
35 to 44 years	422	+/-81	8.7%	+/-1.7
45 to 54 years	614	+/-106	12.7%	+/-2.2
55 to 59 years	472	+/-108	9.8%	+/-2.2
60 to 64 years	539	+/-111	11.1%	+/-2.3
65 to 74 years	612	+/-88	12.7%	+/-1.8
75 to 84 years	221	+/-78	4.6%	+/-1.6
85 years and over	107	+/-49	2.2%	+/-1.0
Median age (years)	47.9	+/-3.2	(X)	(X)
Under 18 years	918	+/-124	19.0%	+/-2.6
16 years and over	4,049	+/-120	83.7%	+/-2.5
18 years and over	3,919	+/-124	81.0%	+/-2.6

21 years and over	3,775	+/-131	78.0%	+/-2.7
62 years and over	1,284	+/-137	26.5%	+/-2.8
65 years and over	940	+/-83	19.4%	+/-1.7
18 years and over	3,919	+/-124	3,919	(X)
Male	1,951	+/-109	49.8%	+/-2.1
Female	1,968	+/-99	50.2%	+/-2.1
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	99.1	+/-8.4	(X)	(X)
65 years and over	940	+/-83	940	(X)
Male	455	+/-60	48.4%	+/-4.8
Female	485	+/-64	51.6%	+/-4.8
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	93.8	+/-18.2	(X)	(X)
RACE				
Total population	4,837	+/-23	4,837	(X)
One race	4,755	+/-46	98.3%	+/-0.9
Two or more races	82	+/-44	1.7%	+/-0.9
One race	4,755	+/-46	98.3%	+/-0.9
White	4,713	+/-55	97.4%	+/-1.1
Black or African American	31	+/-27	0.6%	+/-0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native	8	+/-13	0.2%	+/-0.3
Cherokee tribal grouping	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Chippewa tribal grouping	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Navajo tribal grouping	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Sioux tribal grouping	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Asian	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Asian Indian	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Chinese	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Filipino	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Japanese	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Korean	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Vietnamese	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Other Asian	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Native Hawaiian	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Guamanian or Chamorro	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Samoan	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Other Pacific Islander	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Some other race	3	+/-5	0.1%	+/-0.1
Two or more races	82	+/-44	1.7%	+/-0.9
White and Black or African American	26	+/-23	0.5%	+/-0.5
White and American Indian and Alaska Native	29	+/-30	0.6%	+/-0.6
White and Asian	21	+/-20	0.4%	+/-0.4
Black or African American and American Indian and Alaska Native	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5

Race alone or in combination with one or more other races				
Total population	4,837	+/-23	4,837	(X)
White	4,795	+/-39	99.1%	+/-0.6
Black or African American	61	+/-36	1.3%	+/-0.7
American Indian and Alaska Native	41	+/-33	0.8%	+/-0.7
Asian	21	+/-20	0.4%	+/-0.4
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Some other race	5	+/-7	0.1%	+/-0.1
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE				
Total population	4,837	+/-23	4,837	(X)
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	120	+/-98	2.5%	+/-2.0
Mexican	93	+/-95	1.9%	+/-2.0
Puerto Rican	9	+/-14	0.2%	+/-0.3
Cuban	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Other Hispanic or Latino	18	+/-32	0.4%	+/-0.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	4,717	+/-98	97.5%	+/-2.0
White alone	4,607	+/-108	95.2%	+/-2.2
Black or African American alone	31	+/-27	0.6%	+/-0.5
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	8	+/-13	0.2%	+/-0.3
Asian alone	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Some other race alone	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Two or more races	71	+/-40	1.5%	+/-0.8
Two races including Some other race	0	+/-10	0.0%	+/-0.5
Two races excluding Some other race, and Three or more races	71	+/-40	1.5%	+/-0.8
Total housing units	2,344	+/-115	(X)	(X)
CITIZEN, VOTING AGE POPULATION				
Citizen, 18 and over population	3,919	+/-124	3,919	(X)
Male	1,951	+/-109	49.8%	+/-2.1
Female	1,968	+/-99	50.2%	+/-2.1

(Source: American Community Survey for 2017)

## Age Distribution

Age distribution within the Township is divided into five categories. **(Table 3)** These categories were developed premised upon the role each age group plays within a community. The Under 5 age group represents those that are not involved in the schooling system. Those age 5 to 19 years old are involved in public, private or charter schools. The 20-64 age groups represent the working population of the area

and those that are approaching retirement. The 65 and over age group is the percentage of the population that is likely retired and collecting social security. **Figure C** illustrates the age groups by percentage. The median age of Ross Township residents in 2010 was 47.7 years.

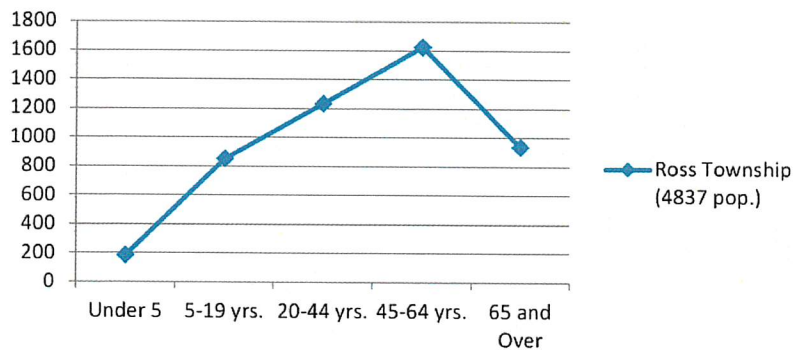
The Census Bureau's American Community Survey for 2017 estimates the Ross Township population to be 4,837. Of these, 1038 are age 19 or less, down from 1072 in 2010; 1234 are age 20-44, up from 1030 in 2010; 1625 are age 45-64, down from 1788 in 2010; and 940 are over the age of 65, up from 774 in 2010.

*We recognize the need to plan for intergenerational recreational use, by drawing on the growing numbers of retirees bringing their grandchildren, or parents and their children, for interactive exercise, picnicking, and swimming. We also recognize the need to address handicapped-accessible facilities and features.*

Table 3 / Figure C

Age Distribution	
Age	Ross Township (4837 pop.)
Under 5	184
5-19 yrs.	854
20-44 yrs.	1234
45-64 yrs.	1625
65 and Over	940

Source: ACS 2017



## Racial Composition

The racial composition of the Township is 97.4% White, 0.6% African American, 0.2% American Indian and Alaskan Indian, 0% Asian, 1.8% other races or from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race was 2.5% of the population. (**Table 4**)

Table 4

Gender and Race/Ethnicity Profile Table									
	2017 Gender		2017 Race/Ethnicity						
	Male	Female	White	African American	Amer. Indian/Alaskan Indian	Asian	Native Hawaiian	Hispanic or Latino	Other
Ross Twp.	2393 (49.5%)	2444 (50.5%)	4713 (97.4%)	31 (0.6%)	8 (0.2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	120 (2.5%)	85 (1.8%)

Source: American Community Survey for 2017

Multicultural information for Kalamazoo County for 2017, which includes visitors to Ross Township attractions, shows of 77.6% White; 11.7% Black or African American; 0.5% American Indian; 2.8% Asian; 0.1% Native Hawaiian/Pacific; 3.5% Two or more races; 4.9% Hispanic or Latino.

## Income

The median household income in Ross Township in 2017 was \$71,190, and the median income for a family was \$83,170. The per capita income for the Township was \$40,965. About 5.1% of families and 8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 13.5% of those under age 18 and 2.2% of those ages 65 or over. **(Table 5)**

Table 5

Number of Households / Income in Dollars							
	Total # of Households	Median HH Income	Less than \$15,000	\$15,000-24,999	\$25,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$99,999	> \$100,000
Ross Twp.	2055	\$ 71,190	115	134	396	771	639
Source: American Community Survey for 2017							

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## **RECREATIONAL FACILITY INVENTORY**

The recreational facilities inventory is a review of facilities owned, operated and or maintained by the township, other public or private facilities within the jurisdiction of the Township and/or Village of Augusta, other County facilities and lastly those of a regional/statewide/national nature. This inventory is useful in defining the needs of the population, building upon what exists, and includes collaboration and connectivity.

### **Township Owned and Operated Facilities**

The Township property includes the Ross Township Park on East Gull Lake Drive. Descriptions, improvements and activities are as follows:

**Ross Township Park:** Ross Township Park is located on the east side of Gull Lake and has approximately 300 feet of beach frontage. The park is a popular destination for picnics and for access by swimmers and divers. A car fee is collected at the gate, or a season pass may be purchased. Once in the park, occupants can use all facilities within park boundaries and should be aware that there is no lifeguard on duty. Park hours: 9am- dusk, April 15 - October 15.

Amenities include parking, restrooms, a sandy beach, and picnic area.

### **Township/Village – Other Facilities (Public/Private)**

Educational/cultural entities include the Gull Lake Community Schools, the Galesburg-Augusta Schools, the Child Development Center & Augusta Academy, and Light of Christ Academy. The McKay Library is located in a small park in the Village of Augusta. The Barn Theatre (private) is a summer stock theater west of Augusta.

There are four golf courses, which are all private facilities (Gull Lake View Golf Club & Resort, Stone Hedge Golf Club, Stoatin Brae Course, and Maple Hill Course), and are located in the eastern part of the township. Other sporting options include four horse facilities (Pine Meadows Farm, East Fork Stable, the Battle Creek Hunt Club, TNT Farms)

The Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center is located on Sherman Lake in the north central part of the township and has 365 acres.

There are also the Gull Lake Marine Center at Gull Lake (private), Gull Lake Inn, and Gull Lake Ministries Conference Center.

Michigan State University maintains several off-campus educational and research facilities within Ross Township. Facilities controlled by MSU include Kellogg Biological Station & Conference Center, Kellogg Farm, Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, and Kellogg Forest. These comprise over 3,800 acres. Activities open to the public include: educational tours, self-guided trails, picnic areas, hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and wildlife viewing.

The **MSU/Kellogg Biological Station (KBS)** is a university research field station with a focus on fundamental and applied research in ecology and agriculture. KBS is home to a National Science Foundation Long Term Ecological Research Site, as well as a Department of Energy Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center Field Experiment site. KBS supports undergraduate and graduate education, as well as K-12 outreach.

#### **Kellogg Bird Sanctuary**

The Bird Sanctuary was created by W.K. Kellogg in 1927 as a refuge for the Canada goose, and other migratory birds, and was an important part of trumpeter swan restoration efforts in the 1980s. The area remains an important stopover location for migrating birds and waterfowl. The sanctuary offers 180 acres of diverse wildlife habitats situated on 40-acre Wintergreen Lake. The paved sanctuary trail runs beside the lake and offers a great view of resident waterfowl, and runs through bird of prey and game bird areas. It is an ideal spot for families, classrooms, birders, wildlife photographers, and nature enthusiasts. There is a 3/4 mile walking trail, and it is handicap accessible.

(<http://www.kbs.msu.edu/visit/birdsanctuary/>)

**Kellogg Forest** is a 50 acre site was established in 1931, now operated by MSU Department of Forestry. The Forest is known as one of the country's premier forest research facilities for tree breeding and genetics, planting techniques, plantation establishment, and management. This once abandoned agricultural land is now a thriving forest and is open to the public. Year-round activities include: fishing, biking, hiking, horseback riding, bow hunting (10/1-1/1 must sign in at office), and cross country skiing.

Other wild and natural areas are administered by the Department of Natural Resources, the State Board of Agriculture and the State of Michigan, including the Gordon E. Guyer/Augusta Creek State Wildlife Area.

**Sherman Lake YMCA** is a regional attraction providing recreational activity and education to local residents, as well as residents of Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. The YMCA Center hosts an array of summer and school youth education programs focusing on character development, teambuilding and other academic programs. The family recreation center consists of a workout facility and swimming pool. Retreats and conferences are also available to the general public.

Activities include: summer camp, horseback riding/camping, rock wall, swimming, fishing, canoe/kayak sports, lodging, and handicap accessibility.

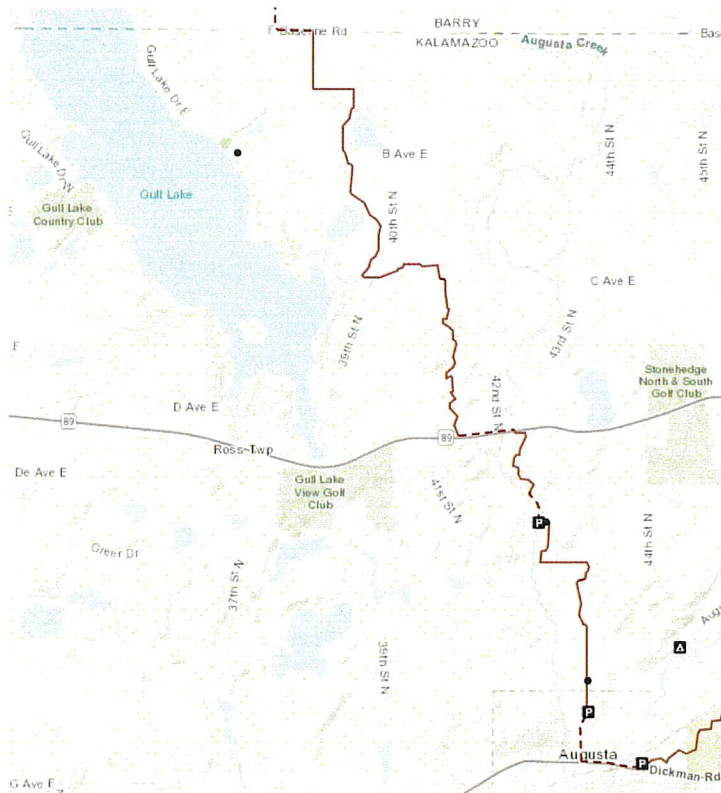
(<http://www.shermanlakeymca.org/>)

## **Regional/Statewide/National Facilities**

**Fort Custer Recreational Area** comprises just over 3,000 acres, and is shared with Charleston Township with only 3% of the property being located in Ross Township. The main entrance to the park is located in Ross township.

**The North Country Trail** is a 4,800-mile hiking trail reaching from Vermont to North Dakota. It runs from south to north for approximately twelve miles in Ross Township. There is an 80-acre parcel known as the "Hutchinson Parcel" in Augusta. This federal land is the first in history purchased by the U.S. National

Parks Service for the North Country Trail Association. Hutchinson Parcel contains approximately two miles of primitive hiking trails, with a vista overlooking 40 acres being planted with native prairie grasses to the south. This native prairie habitat will display what it was like in S.W. Michigan prior to European settlement. The site also contains remnants of the historic Inter-Urban Railway, which existed before highways and connected Kalamazoo to Battle Creek. The trailhead is at Augusta Drive and has parking for four vehicles. Biking, hunting and camping are not allowed on the federal land. An interactive map can be viewed at: [www.northcountrytrail.org/trail/maps/](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/trail/maps/)



## Other County Facilities

There are many other facilities in Kalamazoo County and the surrounding counties, including other cities, villages and townships. Ross Township is unique in that it borders two other counties and two townships within Kalamazoo County. The township is located approximately halfway between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, an hour's drive from Grand Rapids and an hour and a half from Lansing.

Gull Lake, the Kalamazoo River, and the Fort Custer State Park are areas that have contiguous property outside the township.

**Many of the facilities listed have hours, membership only use and require a fee to use. Several have no fees. When planning to use any of the facilities the user should check details for type of use, hours and fees and be considerate realizing some are businesses and may require an appointment.**

## Recreational Facility Inventory

Listed in the following section are the recreational opportunities located within Ross Township. **Table 6** identifies the recreational facilities and provides contact information and the amenities offered at each facility. An aerial photo of the Township and some of its parks allows readers the ability to view park locations. (**Map 6**)

Map 6

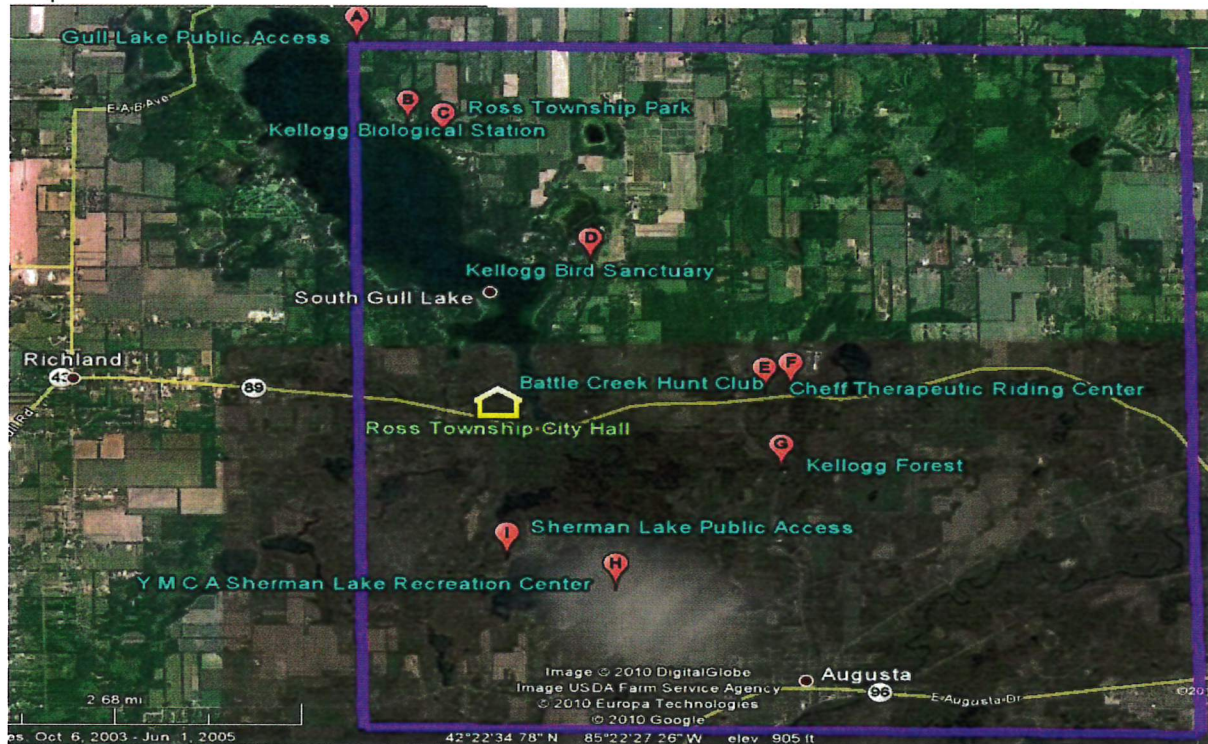


Table 6: Area Attractions in Ross Township & Immediately Surrounding Areas

Recreational Activities/Landmarks				
Ross Township Park	3800 E Gull Lake Dr.	Hickory Corners	Picnic, Swim	Public
Waterfront Public Access Points	<a href="http://www.ross-township.us/">http://www.ross-township.us/</a>			
Gull Lake	Located on Baseline Road off of East Gull Lake Drive. Parking available. Ramp is gravel-surfaced. Launching big boats may be difficult.			
Sherman Lake	Located on North Sherman Lake Drive. Parking available. Ramp is hard-surfaced. Launching bigger boats may be difficult. Handicap accessible.			
Augusta Creek	Kayak launch point at Players Grill and other points in Guyer State Wildlife Area			
Gordon E. Guyer/ Augusta Creek State Wildlife Area	N. 42 <sup>nd</sup> St.	Augusta	Hike, Canoe (no access under roads) Most of the property is along Augusta Creek between M-89 & B Ave	

Gilmore Car Museum	6885 W Hickory Rd.	Hickory Corners	Historic Cars
Fort Custer National Cemetery	15501 Dickman Rd.	Augusta	
Fort Custer Recreational Area	5163 W Fort Custer Dr.	Augusta	Camp, Swim, Boat, Hike, Horseback riding 3 Lakes
North Country Trail	From Baseline Rd/39 <sup>th</sup> St. to 900 block E Augusta Dr. parking lot	Augusta	

<b>Michigan State University</b>			
Kellogg Biological Station (269) 671-5117	3700 E. Gull Lake Drive	Hickory Corners	<a href="http://www.kbs.msu.edu/">http://www.kbs.msu.edu/</a>
W.K. Kellogg Farm/Pasture Dairy Center	10461 N. 40th St.	Hickory Corners	Interpretive Center
Kellogg Bird Sanctuary (269) 671-2510	12685 East C Ave	Augusta	Trail, Pollinator Garden, Picnic, Shop  <a href="http://www.kbs.msu.edu/visit/birdsanctuary">www.kbs.msu.edu/visit/birdsanctuary</a>
W.K. Kellogg Experimental Forest (269) 731-4597	7060 N. 42nd St	Augusta	Hike, Picnic, Horse Riding
Conference Center/Manor House	3700 E. Gull Lake Drive	Hickory Corners	Tour, Event Site

Barn Theatre	13351 West M-96	Augusta	Summer Stock theater
Gull Lake Inn	12500 E M-89	Richland	Lodging, golf packages
Gull Lake Marine Center	12485 East D Ave	Richland	Sales, Rentals, Service
McKay Memorial Library	1055 Webster St.	Augusta	Michicard Member Library
YMCA Sherman Lake Outdoor Center	6225 N 39 <sup>th</sup> St.	Augusta	Youth Camps, Swim, Exercise, Event Site
<b>Riding</b>			
Battle Creek Hunt Club (269) 731-4423	7878 N 43 <sup>rd</sup> St.	Augusta	Membership required 1200 trailed acres <a href="http://www.battlecreekhunt.com/">http://www.battlecreekhunt.com/</a>
East Fork Farms		10392 N 44 <sup>th</sup> St.	Augusta
Pine Meadow Farms	8125 N 42 <sup>nd</sup> St.	Augusta	Riding Lessons, Boarding
TNT Farms	13126 E Baseline Rd.	Hickory Corners	Riding, Boarding

<b>Golf</b>			
Gull Lake View Golf Club & Resort	7417 N 38 <sup>th</sup> St.	Augusta	
Stoatin Brea Course	15579 E Augusta Dr.	Augusta	
Stonehedge Golf Club	15530 M-89	Augusta	
Maple Hills Golf Course	16344 E C Ave	Augusta	
<b>Schools</b>			
Augusta Academy & Child Development Center	600 W Michigan Ave., Augusta		
Galesburg-Augusta Middle School	750 W. VanBuren St., Augusta		
Kellogg Elementary School	9594 N. 40 <sup>th</sup> St., Hickory Corners		
Light of Christ Academy	12648 East D Avenue, Richland		

## Natural Resources Inventory

In 2010, the Four Township Water Resources Council published the 'NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY OF PRAIRIEVILLE, BARRY, ROSS AND RICHLAND TOWNSHIPS.' Please refer to the Ross Township Office for the copy of the "Gull and Augusta Creeks Watershed Management Plan: the Four Township Watershed Area." It can also be seen on their website: [www.ftwrc.org](http://www.ftwrc.org)

## PLANNING PROCESS/PUBLIC INPUT

### Plan Development Process

The 2020 Recreation Plan is a collaborative effort between the Township Board, the Parks Committee, the citizens of Ross Township, and in consultation with Erin Campbell, the DNR representative for State District 8. This new 5-year recreation plan was initiated in 2019, and builds on a vision established by the original 2013 Recreation Plan. Additionally, a revised definition and set of directives for the Parks and Recreation Committee was approved by the Board of Trustees in the spring of 2019. These revised directives were a result of community input to the township office and an updated resident survey completed in spring of 2016. The directives issued with respect to parks and recreation are as follows:

- Identification and coordination of needs and activities involving Ross Township Park, including park development, improvements, maintenance, and related issues as well as any programming involving the park.
- Prioritization of Parks and Recreation Committee activities. Maintenance of existing facilities, and user safety, shall take precedence over new development projects and recreational programming.
- In cooperation with the Township Supervisor, responsibility for management oversight of all physical modifications and enhancements to Parks and Recreation property and facilities

ensuring all work is done with the appropriate permits, licenses, inspections, and liability protection.

- Development and maintenance of a five year Parks and Recreation Master Plan to complement the goals, objectives and mission outlined in the Ross Township Master Plan.
- Preparation of an annual budget to be presented to the Township Board for approval. The budget shall include: carryover balance from previous year and itemized estimations for revenue, operational expenses and special project costs. A recommended budget shall be submitted no later than February 1 for funding to be used in the fiscal year that commences April 1.
- Collection of all revenues and payment of all expenses shall remain the responsibility of the Ross Township Treasurer and Clerk. Standard operational expenses (salaries, supplies, etc.) related to Ross Township Park remain the responsibility of the Board and require no recommendation from the Parks Committee for approval, though the Parks Committee may make recommendations regarding efficiencies or cost savings related to operational expenses. Expenditures for special projects recommended by the Parks Committee shall be presented to the Township Board for consideration and approval.
- Development and oversight of grant proposals and private donor campaigns related to the township's park facilities and/or operations.
- Working with Ross Township residents and volunteer-based organizations, individuals and groups who use Parks and Recreation facilities to obtain important feedback about their experiences and suggestions for improvement and usage.
- Development of agreements with schools and community groups, e.g. scouts, charitable and not-for-profit organizations, etc., to undertake cooperative programs, projects and events.
- Monitor progress of Kalamazoo River Valley Trail as related to development within Ross Township.
- Identification of opportunities for the betterment of Ross Township Parks and associated recreational programs.

## Prior Recreation Plan Objectives/Results

As part of the 2013-2018 plan's Action Program, items identified as having the highest priority were as follows:

### Improvements/Maintenance of Existing Recreational Facilities

- Adopt and fund a program for the maintenance of Township recreational facilities
- Adopt and fund a program for the maintenance of parking areas at Township recreational facilities
- Establish a play structure at the Ross Township Park
- Establish a disc golf course or skate park at the Ross Township Park
- Provide barrier-free access to all Township recreational facilities
- Provide barrier-free parking at all Township recreational facilities

Results: To aid in realization of the goals set forth in the 2013 Recreation Plan, a Parks and Recreation advisory committee was established in April 2014. Subsequent activities included identification of specific areas for improvement, applications for grants (unsuccessful) to support the installation of

playground equipment and development of a concept for improvements to Ross Township Park. In 2019, a dedicated park budget was established to address maintenance items at the Park: a new well and pump were installed, beachfront area was excavated to reduce beachfront erosion, pump house in disrepair was removed, all picnic tables were refurbished, new swim buoys were purchased, dead and fallen trees were removed, and a nature trail was installed. A majority of this was accomplished through 600+ hours of volunteer help. In September 2019, Ross Township was approved for a grant through Irving S. Gilmore Foundation to be used for park improvements. The Parks and Recreation Committee has begun to build partnerships with area organizations, such as Gull Lake Area Rotary Club and Boy Scouts of America (via Eagle Scout projects) which will allow further enhancements to the park to take place.

#### Non-motorized connectivity

- Encourage site design that provides pedestrian access to Gull Lake from the Bay Commercial District area
- Encourage connectivity between the North Country Trail and the Bay Commercial area
- Coordinate the establishment of non-motorized routes within the Township with planned/existing routes in adjacent communities, specifically Richland Township, the Village of Richland, and the Village of Augusta
- Establish an easily accessible network of non-motorized routes near and between Township activity centers and recreational facilities.
- Establish a system of wayfinding signage throughout the Township that connects bike lanes and non-motorized routes with activity centers and recreation areas.
- Facilitate the establishment of the 'green loop' around Gull Lake as a non-motorized loop
- Establish connectivity to the Kellogg Forest and Kellogg Bird Sanctuary through bike lanes or non-motorized routes.
- Participate in efforts to improve, maintain, identify, and otherwise establish the North Country system as it extends through Ross Township
- Establish bike lanes on routes (public roadways) that provide access to Township recreational facilities
- Apply 'Complete Streets' strategies to establish bike lanes on key routes with the Township
- Establish a bike lane route that provides access to the North Country Trail system
- Participate in area/regional planning efforts regarding recreation, non-motorized paths, and bike routes

Results: Much of the early work of the Parks and Recreation Committee was centered around the idea of establishing bike trails and non-motorized paths throughout the Township. The Committee worked in conjunction with an ad-hoc citizen's group known as Gull Lake Area Trails (GLAT). In 2014 a trail map was completed identifying potential non-motorized routes throughout the Township. In 2015, the concept for a connection with the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVt) was formulated. The Ross Township Board of Trustees approved a Resolution of Support for KRVt in November 2015. In 2016, GLAT merged with KRVt and the concept for a trail from Augusta to the bay of Gull Lake became Phase 3 of the KRVt trail plan.

## **2020 Plan (Pre-Planning and Public Input)**

Updated information available from a 2016 Township survey, and a new mandate from the Township Board, prompted the Parks and Recreation Committee to undertake a new recreation planning process in 2019. The survey format consisted of eleven questions, three of which were related to Parks and Recreation. Notification was initially provided in the annual tax notices mailed to residents, with a follow-up reminder published in the township newsletter. The survey was accessed primarily through an online link on the township website. Paper-based surveys were available from the township office. A total of 325 valid surveys were received with 20 surveys being paper-based.

Several other methods are used to gather input from the citizens of Ross Township regarding recreational values important to Park users and the community. The Parks Committee has monthly meetings at the Ross Township offices that are open for public dialog. Invited participation is also welcome at Planning Commission meetings, where recreational planning has been a scheduled agenda item. During the summer of 2019, the chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee visited the Ross Township Park to discuss improvements with park visitors. Reactions were favorable.

## **2020-2025 (Draft Plan Reviewed/Local Adoption and Submission to State)**

The Parks and Recreation Committee held meetings beginning in the summer of 2019 to kick off the process for review and update of the 5-Year Recreation Plan. The revised plan was completed in October 2019.

A compilation of the Plan was distributed to Ross Township residents, via website postings, with a request for their input, to allow public review and reaction to the concepts and objectives of this Plan.

Following the public review/input period, the draft Plan was considered at meetings of the Parks Committee (dates), the Planning Commission (dates), and finalized and approved for submission to the Township Board. A summary of the public input provided on the draft Plan is provided in Appendix X.

Upon adoption by the Board, this will be transmitted to the State (MDNR) in late 2019.

## **Analysis of Survey Results**

Ross Township undertook a community survey in the spring of 2016 in order to gain input from residents on a variety of issues. Several of the questions put forth focused on input related to Parks and Recreation. The first question asked how many times the resident had visited the Ross Township park in the most recent year. The second asked for input, from those who had visited the Park, as to level of satisfaction with parking, pavilion, beach, and picnic area. The third question asked residents if they would be interested in a biking/walking trail in Ross Township.

With regard to the initial question (How often did you visit Ross Township park on Gull Lake last year?), there were 325 responses: 14 (4.31%) responded more than five times, 49 (15.08%) responded two to five times, 41 (12.62%) responded once, and 221 (68%) responded they did not visit the park. This led to the conclusion that a majority of township residents had not visited the park in the previous year, and that most park visitors are from outside the township. This could also lead to the conclusion that more could be done to attract township residents to the park.

With regard to the second question (If you visited the park during the last year, how satisfied were you with the following areas?), the survey asked for residents to evaluate parking, pavilion, beach, and picnic area with rankings of very satisfied, satisfied, neutral, dissatisfied, very dissatisfied, or don't know. Results were evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the lowest). There were a total of 110 responses related to parking, 111 related to pavilion, 112 related to beach, and 111 related to picnic area. Generally, all ratings were relatively high with the beach receiving the lowest rating. Written comments about the park indicated some problems with parking, access to the beach, an interest in having a children's playground, and the desire to bring dogs.

With regard to the third question (Would you be interested in having a bike/walking trail in Ross Township?), there were 321 responses: 237 (73.83%) responded yes, and 84 (26.17%) responded no. The conclusion was that a majority of township residents are in favor of having a bike/walking trail in Ross Township. Additional statistical analysis found that younger residents supported this idea better than older residents.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The overriding goal of this Plan is to continue to support the Mission Statement of Ross Township, to continue to provide high quality maintenance of existing recreational facilities while adding improvements identified through the public input process, and to continue to support Phase 3 of the KRVF project. These goals and objectives are based on feedback from the community survey and public meetings.

### **Recreational Opportunities within the Township**

Goal 1: Provide information and connections to promote use of Ross Township natural attractions and facilities.

- a. Support Four Township Water Resources Council (F4TWRC) efforts to establish conservation easements along Augusta Creek.
- b. Set-up a summer educational program for school-age children (possibly with older adults as mentors) for 3-day morning sessions in July and August.
- c. Add a "Little Library" in Ross Township Park for books and games.

### **Recreational Opportunities in Ross Township Park**

Goal 2: Improve the potential for recreational use of Ross Township Park.

- a. Improve use of Ross Township Park for use by all ages and abilities
- b. Improve recreational options, such as play areas, seating, etc.
- c. Establish a more efficient dock/launch area for kayaks, canoes, and other portable craft, such as currently launch at the south end of Ross Township Park beach
- d. Provide barrier-free access.
- e. Fund a program for the maintenance of Township recreational facilities, including parking areas.
- f. Expand minimal parking spots in Ross Township Park.
- g. Provide accessible water wheelchair
- h. Re-establish 50 foot beachfront rehabilitation, with seawall, new access points and approximately 10 to 15 foot wide beach area, with barrier-free access at south end of beach and dock

Goal 3: Provide play/exercise opportunities, and accessibility to attract and serve people of all ages and abilities

- a. Educational walking path through wooded area of Ross Township Park
- b. Establish a new play area in the Ross Township Park, including play structure and swings.
- c. Establish play/exercise options such as:
  - 1. Volleyball/badminton play area and equipment, exercise stations for older adults/PWD
  - 2. Establish ADA accessibility through:
    - i. Accessible benches and tables
    - ii. Accessible sidewalks and beach access
      - 1. Establish new sea wall and sandy beach area with easier access

Goal 4: Safety and Maintenance

- a. Fund a program for the maintenance of Township recreational facilities, including parking areas.
- b. Ensure safety measures to assist all users
  - a. Provide lifesaving flotation devices (e.g., rings) for emergency use at Ross Township Park.
  - b. Install (2) safety lighting parking areas in Ross Township Park until 10:00 pm when Park closes
- c. Establish safe and adequate parking at Township Park, including barrier-free parking.
- d. Establish emergency protocols for park attendants

Goal 5: Build new Pavilion for family, club and organizational events.

## **Non-Motorized Recreational Connectivity**

Goal 6: Alignment with efforts by trail organizations/clubs to promote, plan and establish the hiking and bicycling routes and trails through Ross Township, in cooperation with other townships, villages, and Kalamazoo County.

Goal 7: Continued endorsement of Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVt) Phase 3, connection from Augusta to Gull Lake.

## **ACTION PROGRAM**

### **The Basis for the Action Program**

This plan has been based upon a building block approach, utilizing past plans, successful improvements, and community support in establishing a Parks and Recreation program in Ross Township. The following action program is devoted to a continuation of the successes implemented so far as a result of this relatively new initiative within Ross Township.

### **Ross Township Natural Attractions: Use**

- Continue to fund a program for the maintenance of Township recreational facilities, including parking areas.
- Provide barrier-free access to all Township recreational facilities.
- Recognize/respond to the tourism opportunities afforded Ross Township by attractions/events/facilities in adjacent communities.
- Continue to identify and apply for funding via grants, as available
- Continue to recruit and work with volunteers (both individual and organizations)

### **Ross Township Natural Attractions: Conservation**

- Support Four Township Water Resources Council (4TWRC) efforts to establish conservation easements along Augusta Creek.

### **Recreational Opportunities in Ross Township Park**

- Carry out 50 foot beachfront rehabilitation, with seawall, new access points and approximately 10 to 15 foot wide beach area, with barrier-free access at south end of beach and dock
- Improve use of Ross Township Park for use by all ages and abilities, and provide barrier-free access
- Establish ADA accessibility through: Accessible benches and tables, accessible sidewalks and beach access
- Provide play/exercise opportunities and accessibility to attract and serve people of all ages and abilities. (options such as: exercise stations for older adults/PWD, volleyball/badminton play area and equipment)
- Improve tables and seating
- Establish a play structure at the Ross Township Park
- Establish a more efficient dock/launch area for kayaks, canoes, and other portable craft, such as currently launch at the south end of Park beach
- Expand parking spots in Ross Township Park
- Provide accessible water wheelchair
- Build new Pavilion for Township residents' use for family, club and organizational events

- Provide lifesaving flotation devices (e.g., rings) for emergency use at Ross Township Park
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## Non-Motorized Recreational Connectivity

- Support efforts by trail organizations/clubs to promote, plan and establish the hiking and bicycling routes and trails through Ross Township, in cooperation with other townships, villages, and Kalamazoo County
- Continue to support Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVT) Phase 3, connection from Augusta to Gull Lake
- Install bike racks for Park users

## Education

- Encourage area schools and other educational institutions and environmental groups to provide education on wetlands and environmental protection in Ross Township
- Facilitate training in scuba and lifesaving at Ross Township Park
- Set-up a summer educational program for school-age children (possibly with older adults as mentors) for 3-day morning sessions in July and August
- Add a "Little Library" in Ross Township Park for books and games
- Seek out training/assistance in making the Park accessible (Disability Network workshop)

## References

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-“No Holding Back: Gull Lake group working to replace 140-year-old dam,” Encore Magazine, CHRIS KILLIAN, SEP 01, 2019.

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-Kalamazoo Michigan County Government Web Site, Kalamazoo County Connection. Web. 21 Dec. 2010. <http://www.kalcounty.com/>.

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- Establish emergency protocols for park attendants

## Non-Motorized Recreational Connectivity

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- Ross Township. Web. 21 Dec. 2010. <http://www.ross-township.us/index.html>.



**Appendices** This will change.***Appendix A***

Copy of the Meeting Notice – January 7, 2020 Community Workshop  
Copy of the Meeting Agenda – January 7, 2020 Community Workshop  
Copy of the Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2020 Community Workshop

***Appendix B***

KRVT Resolution of Support

***Appendix C***

Copy of the Meeting Notice – January 7, 2020 Public Hearing before the Ross Township Board  
Copy of the Meeting Agenda – January 7, 2020 Public Hearing before the Ross Township Board  
Copy of the Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2020 Public Hearing before the Ross Township Board

***Appendix D***

Official Resolution of Adoption by the Ross Township Board January 7, 2020  
Copy of the Letter transmitting the Adopted Plan to the County Planning Agency  
Copy of the Letter transmitting the Adopted Plan to the Regional Planning Agency